

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) The optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein the vehicle is a motor vehicle.
3. (cancelled)
4. (currently amended) The optical detection system of ~~claim 3~~ claim 19, wherein said sensors are part of at least one of a parking assistance system, a distance control system, a lane deviation warning system, a night vision system, and a system for early detection of accident situations.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (currently amended) The optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein said camera optics is disposed in a rear region of the vehicle.
9. (currently amended) The optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein said camera optics is disposed in a front region of the vehicle.

10. (currently amended) The optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein said camera optics can be pivoted about and/or displaced along one or more device axes thereof.
11. (currently amended) ~~A control device in an of the optical detection system of claim 19 for vehicles, the optical detection system having a camera optics disposed on the vehicle and a signal transmitter for generating and communicating signals to the control device, with the camera optics being controlled in dependence on said signals, wherein the control device comprises means for communicating with the camera optics to control at least one of a focus and an image frame of the camera optics.~~
12. (currently amended) A method for operating the optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein, when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, said focus of said camera optics is reduced such that said image frame is enlarged to detect the entire object or substantial parts thereof.
13. (original) A method for operating the control device of claim 11, wherein, when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, the focus of the camera optics is reduced such that the image frame is enlarged to detect the entire object or substantial parts thereof.
14. (currently amended) A method for operating the optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein, when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, said camera optics is pivoted and/or

displaced to permit detection of the entire object or of substantial parts thereof.

15. (original) A method for operating the control device of claim 11, wherein when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, the camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced to permit detection of the entire object or of substantial parts thereof.
16. (currently amended) A method for operating the optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, wherein, when the vehicle approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, said focus of said camera optics is reduced and said camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced.
17. (original) A method for operating the control device of claim 11, wherein, when the vehicles approaches an object in a vicinity of the vehicle, the focus of the camera optics is reduced and the camera optics is pivoted and/or displaced.
18. (currently amended) A method for operating the optical detection system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 19, through operation of said camera optics, through operation of said control device to control said focus and/or said Image frame of said camera optics, and through operation of said signal transmitter, wherein said focus and/or said image frame of said camera optics is controlled in dependence on said signals generated by said signal transmitter.
19. (new) An optical detection system for a vehicle, the system comprising:

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a camera optics disposed on the vehicle, said camera optics having focussing means and/or means for adjusting a camera field of view;

a display unit communicating with said camera optics for displaying images taken by said camera optics;

a signal transmitter having ultrasonic, radar, and/or infrared sensors structured for mounting to the vehicle to detect an object in a vicinity of the vehicle;

a pattern or image detection device communicating with said signal transmitter for recognition of the object detected by said sensors; and

a control device communicating with said pattern or image detection device, said focussing means, and said field of view adjusting means to control a focus and/or an image frame signal output of said camera optics in dependence on signals generated by said signal transmitter such that the object is clearly visible on said display unit.